

NSC BRIEFING

30 January 1957

KOREAN MILITARY SITUATION

- I. Although North Koreans have generally ignored continuing ROK threats to "march north," the Communist regime has added steadily to its military strength ever since the July '53 armistice.**
 - A. Recent example of Pyongyang's unwillingness to be provoked is mildness of 8 Nov note protesting two ROK overflights.**
 - 1. Note was phrased in routine language and was followed by appeal for "friendly" north-south parliamentary meetings.**
 - B. Latest example: ROK National Assembly passed resolution (11 Jan) calling for abrogation of Armistice Agreement. Pyongyang radio, in rebuttal, has stressed need to convert Armistice into "lasting peace."**
- II. Despite soft talk, Communist regime in past three and half years has significantly strengthened its military forces in clear violation of truce agreement.**

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ARMY review completed.

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

- III. Although large ChiCom withdrawals since Armistice have greatly reduced total Communist ground force strength in Korea, the North Koreans' own army has been significantly improved.** 25X1
- A. When fighting ended, Communist strength stood at 1,159,000 troops (872,000 ChiComs, 281,000 Koreans).**
- 1. With the withdrawal of 14 out of 19 armies, ChiCom strength in Korea is now down to 297,000.**
 - 2. North Korean army strength, however, has risen by 78,000 to new high of 357,000.**
- B. Aid from ChiComs and Sovs has doubled North Korean artillery strength over armistice level.**
- 1. Six new NK artillery regiments (with a total of about 200 122mm guns) have been formed, while NK infantry divisions have been expanded and supplied with additional organic artillery.**
- C. G-2 also estimates an increase of more than 40% in ChiCom and North Korean armor within Korea.**
- 1. Current count is 659 tanks (300 North Korean, 359 ChiCom).**

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